

## Message Text

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10

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-11 SSO-00 NSCE-00

INRE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05

OMB-01 /086 W

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O P 080919Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7937

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY

AMCONSUL CASABLANCA

AMEMBASSY DAKAR PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MADRID PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMCONSUL TANGIER PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TUNIS PRIORITY

USMISSION USUN PRIORITY

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY PRIORITY

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON PRIORITY

FOSIF ROTA PRIORITY

COMSIXTHFLT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 1295

USCINCEUR AND CINCUSNAVEUR ALSO FOR POLADS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PBOR MO SP SS AG MR

SUBJECT: BREAK IN MOROCCAN-ALGERIAN DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS

1. BREAKING OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH ALGERIA ANNOUNCED

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IN OFFICIAL GOM STATEMENT ISSUED LATE AFTERNOON MARCH 7.

2. GOM STATEMENT NOTED ALGERIAN RECOGNITION ON MARCH 6 OF "SO-CALLED SAHARAN DEMOCRATIC ARAB REPUBLIC", ALONG WITH ALGERIAN ALLEGATION THAT MARCH 1 OAU COUNCIL OF MINISTERS HAD RECOGNIZED POLISARIO AS LIBERATION MOVEMENT. GOM STATEMENT WENT ON TO DENOUNCE ALGERIAN "FALSIFICATION" AND TO EXPLAIN THAT GOM COULD NOT CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN NORMAL RELATIONS WITH A STATE WHICH IN FACT MAKING ATTEMPTS AGAINST NATIONAL UNITY OF MOROCCO AND ITS TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY. GOM LAID FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR SITUATION ON ALGERIA.

3. COMMENT: THE RUPTURE FULFILLS WARNING AIRED TO DIPLOMATIC CORPS BY MININFO BENHIMA DURING LAST WEEK'S THRONE DAY CEREMONIES THAT RELATIONS WOULD BE BROKEN WITHIN 24 HOURS WITH ANY COUNTRY RECOGNIZING SDAR. MOROCCANS THUS APPEAR TO BE REACTING IN STUDIED FORCEFUL MANNER TO ALGERIAN MOVE RATHER THAN ESCALATING PURELY ON THEIR OWN. SIMULTANEOUS BREAK BY MAURITANIA WITH ALGERIA POINTS TO CONTINUING CLOSE GOM-GIRM COORDINATION ON SAHARA POLICY.

4. MOROCCANS ARE IN EFFECT PUTTING OTHER WOULD-BE RECOGNIZERS ON FIRM NOTICE, PRESUMABLY IN HOPES OF DETERRING AT LEAST THOSE VALUING THEIR TIES WITH MOROCCO. MOROCCAN FIRMNESS MAY BE HAVING SOME POSITIVE RESULTS, AS WE UNDERSTAND FROM AUTHORITATIVE EASTERN EUROPEAN DIPLOMATIC SOURCE THAT USSR AND OTHER EASTERN EUROPEAN STATES NOT RPT NOT PLANNING RECOGNITION OF SDAR UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES. AN IMMEDIATE TEST OF EFFICACY OF MOROCCAN DETERRENCE WILL BE WHETHER LIBYA PROCEEDS WITH RECOGNITION OF SDAR, CREATING FURTHER BREACH IN ARAB RANKS.

5. RUPTURE WITH ALGERIA WILL CLEARLY MAKE FUTURE MEDIATION EFFORTS EVEN MORE DIFFICULT, ALTHOUGH THEY WERE HARDLY PROMISING BEFORE. WHILE CLOSING OF ALGERIAN EMBASSY CUTS OF A DIRECT CHANNEL OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN GOM AND GOA, THIS CHANNEL HAD BEEN OF LESSENERED VALUE IN ANY CASE BECAUSE OF ABSENCE SINCE LATE LAST YEAR OF ALGERIAN AMBASSADOR, AS WELL AS SIMILAR LONG-TIME DOWNGRADING OF MOROCCAN EMBASSY IN ALGIERS. DESPITE BREAK, HOWEVER, WE WOULD EXPECT GOM AND GOA TO BE ABLE TO GET VIEWS ACROSS THROUGH OTHER PUBLIC AND PRIVATE CHANNELS AS NECESSARY.

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